Intro to University Archives & Historical Collections

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What is the University Archives?

- A place or collection containing records, documents, or other materials of historical interest relating to Michigan State University.
- The University Archives serves as the institutional memory for MSU.
- We are the place for information about MSU history.
Historical Collections

- The University Archives also contains primary sources collections that are not related to MSU history.
- Michigan topics include:
  - Michigan in the Civil War
  - Automotive, lumber and agricultural industries
  - Life in rural Michigan
Primary Sources

- A primary source is a written document, speech, or other sort of evidence, created during the time under study.

- Examples:
  - Autobiographies
  - Photographs
  - Diaries
  - Letters
  - E-mail
  - News Film Footage
  - Interviews
  - Speeches
  - Meeting Minutes
Rules for Handling Archival Materials

- Archival materials are unique and often the only copy produced. Handling them takes some special rules.
  - All materials are room use only
  - Pencils and laptops allowed – pens are not
  - No food or drink
  - No cell phones
  - Use lockers for personal belongings
Conrad Hall is located east of the Wharton Center at the corner of Wilson Road and Fee Road between Fee Hall and Akers Hall.
Open Hours

- Monday: 8:30-12, 1-4:30
- Tuesday: 8:30-12, 1-4*
- Wednesday: 1-4:30
- Thursday: 8:30-12, 1-4:30
- Friday: 8:30-12, 1-4:30

*We close 30 minutes early on Tuesday to accommodate a class. Fall Semester only.
Subjects in the University Archives

MSU Athletics        Lumbering Industry
Civil War            Campus Grounds & Bldgs
REO Motor Car        Agriculture
Dairy                Campus Departments
Ransom Olds          W.K. Kellogg
4-H                  Student Activities & Groups
Environmentalism     Faculty Members
Lansing and East Lansing
MSU ATHLETICS

Green Splash
CIVIL WAR

Damaged RR Bridge at Bridgeport, TN
CIVIL WAR

Diary of John Gibson Parkhurst in 1862 when he was a prisoner of war
RANSOM OLDS AND REO MOTOR CAR COMPANY

Early Olds stuck in the mud
CAMPUS GROUNDS

Crossing the Farm Lane Bridge
CAMPUS GROUNDS
Blueprints of Gymnasium Building
LANSING AND EAST LANSING

Early Lansing Photograph
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Excavation Week – Digging the Foundation for the Union
Searching the Library Catalog
http://magic.msu.edu
Limit Location to University Archives
Type in Basic Keywords
See Your Results

![Search Results for Civil War in the Michigan State University Libraries Catalog](image)

- **Result Page:** 1 2 3 Next

### Keywords (1-50 of 147)

**Most relevant titles entries 1-1:**

1. **Save Record**
   - **Title:** Civil War Pattern
   - **Location:** Univ Arch & Hist Coll
   - **Status:** LIB USE ONLY

2. **Very relevant titles entries 2-143:**
   - **Save Record**
   - **Title:** Hello Family
     - **Website**
     - **Location:** Univ Arch & Hist Coll
     - **Status:** LIB USE ONLY

3. **Save Record**
   - **Title:** Company K
     - **Description:** United States. Army. Michigan Infantry Regiment, 8th Company K.
     - **Website**
     - **Location:** Univ Arch & Hist Coll
     - **Status:** LIB USE ONLY

4. **Save Record**
   - **Title:** Bomber Family
     - **Website**
     - **Location:** Univ Arch & Hist Coll
     - **Status:** LIB USE ONLY

5. **Save Record**
   - **Title:** Davis Family
     - **Website**
     - **Location:** Univ Arch & Hist Coll
     - **Status:** LIB USE ONLY
Try limiting search by adding other keywords
Multiple keywords provides more focused search
Catalog Record for the Edwin Havens Papers

Author: Havens, Edwin R., 1840-1931.

Title: Edwin R. Havens papers, 1839-1867.

Available online:
View the Collection Inventory - All Users

LOCATION CALL # (Click to browse similar items) STATUS

LOC USE ONLY

Description

1860-1865

This collection contains correspondence (1862-1865) dealing with Edwin Havens' service in the 7th Michigan Cavalry during the Civil War.

Summary

Details training at Camp Kellogg (Grand Rapids, Michigan); the day-to-day life of a Civil War soldier; battles such as Gettysburg, Richmond, Petersburg, and the Shenandoah valley; and describes such notables as Gouverneur K. Warren, George Armstrong Custer, John Mosby, and Jubal Early (including one diary, 1865), which also deals with Havens' service, some regimental records and anecdotes, several newspaper clippings (1850, 1859, n.d.) and a copy of the song "Peter Quittam.

Note

Edwin R. Havens (1840-1931) was born in Stafford, New York. His family moved to Miss Township, Michigan, in 1851. As a young man, Havens taught in the district schools of Iosco County, Michigan. He enlisted in the 7th Michigan Cavalry as a Sergeant in September, 1862. After a 6-month training period, the regiment was sent to Washington, D.C., and was later involved in the Gettysburg, Richmond, Petersburg, and Shenandoah Valley campaigns, among others.

After the war, Havens was transferred to Virginia Dale, in the Colorado Territory. The regiment was mustered out on December 15, 1865, in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Havens returned to Michigan. He became an employee of the State Lands Division and retired in 1902 as Chief of the department. He died in Lansing, Michigan, in 1931, following a lingering illness.

Finding Aid

Finding aid available in 101 Conrad Hall

Provenance

Gift of Roscoe Havens, transferred by MSU Museum

Subject

Kealpe, George

Custer, George Armstrong

Mosby, John

Early, Jubal

U.S. -- America -- 19th century

U.S. -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

U.S. -- History -- 19th Century

Gettysburg (Pa., 1863)

Richmond (Va.) -- Siege, 1864-1865

Winchester and Battle of Winchester, Va., 1864

Cape Bull Run (Va.) -- 1862
Finding Aid for Edwin Havens Papers

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Collection Summary
Scope and Contents of the Papers
Index Terms
Container List
Papers
Volumes In Box

Michigan State University
University Archives & Historical Collections

Edwin R. Havens:
An Inventory of His Papers at the MSU University Archives and Historical Collections

Collection Summary

Creator:
Havens, Edwin R.

Title:
Papers of Edwin R. Havens

Dates:
1836-1867

Quantity:
0.66 cu. ft.

Identification:
16

Scope and Contents of the Papers

The Edwin Havens Papers consist of letters and journals written by Havens while serving in the Seventh Michigan Cavalry during the Civil War. Havens was born in Buffalo, New York, on May 25, 1840. His family later moved to Michigan in 1851, settling in Niles Township. As a young man, Havens taught in the district schools of Berrien County. In September 1862, Havens enlisted in the Seventh Michigan Cavalry Regiment as a Sergeant. The letters of 1863 concern the training period of the regiment at Camp Kellogg, Grand Rapids, Michigan. In February of 1863, the regiment was sent to Washington, D.C., and was later involved in campaigns at Gettysburg, Richmond, Petersburg, and the Shenandoah Valley.

Havens' letters contain details of important battles, as well as the day-to-day life of the Civil War soldier. Descriptions of such notables as Ulysses S. Grant, George Meade, George Armstrong Custer, John Mosby, and Jeb Stuart are especially interesting. After the war, Havens was transferred to the West where he was stationed at Virginia Dale, Colorado Territory. On December 15, 1885, the regiment was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Havens returned home to Michigan. In 1889, he became an employee of the State Land's Division and retired in 1929 as the chief of the department. He died in Lansing on August 25, 1931 following a lingering illness.

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Index Terms


Basic Parts to a Finding Aid

- Collection Summary
  - Title and Author
  - Date Range
  - Size
  - Collection Number (Call Number)
- Scope of the Collection
- Subject/Index Terms
- Custodial History
- Box and Folder List
Box and Folder List for Havens

Container List

Papers

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